

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

As Engrossed: H3/15/13

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1838

5 By: Representatives Carnine, *D. Altes, C. Armstrong, Barnett, Biviano, Catlett, Clemmer, Cozart, Dale,*
6 *Deffenbaugh, J. Dickinson, D. Douglas, Eubanks, Fite, Gossage, Hickerson, Hobbs, Hopper, Jean,*
7 *Lampkin, Lenderman, Lowery, S. Malone, McLean, Ratliff, Rice, Scott, Slinkard*
8 *By: Senator J. Key*
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO ENHANCE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS AND
12 POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION IN ARKANSAS; TO ESTABLISH
13 THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND CAREER
14 READINESS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15
16

Subtitle

18 TO ENHANCE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS
19 AND POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION IN ARKANSAS.
20
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
23

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 5 is amended to add an
25 additional subchapter to read as follows:
26

27 Subchapter 11 -- Council on Postsecondary Education and Career
28 Readiness
29

30 6-5-1101. Legislative intent.

31 The General Assembly finds that:

32 (1) Public schools should help all students:

33 (A) Have the reading, writing, and mathematics skills
34 needed to succeed in all first-year coursework in associate and baccalaureate
35 degree programs in non-mathematics-based majors; and

36 (B) Be ready for as many career options as possible by



1 having a base level of employability; and

2 (2) The development of college and career readiness standards
3 should be undertaken as an integrative process among:

4 (A) The legislature;

5 (B) State agencies that regulate and support the public
6 educational systems of the state;

7 (C) Kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary
8 educational institutions; and

9 (D) The public.

10
11 6-5-1102. Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness
12 established - Membership - Meetings.

13 (a) This subchapter establishes the Council on Postsecondary Education
14 and Career Readiness to facilitate the collaboration of kindergarten,
15 elementary, secondary, and postsecondary educational institutions in Arkansas
16 in developing college and career readiness standards that align school
17 curriculum and graduation standards with postsecondary education requirements
18 and business community expectations for employability.

19 (b) The council shall consist of twelve (12) members as follows:

20 (1) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;

21 (2) The Director of the Department of Higher Education or his or
22 her designee;

23 (3) The Director of the Department of Career Education or his or
24 her designee;

25 (4) The Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission
26 or his or her designee;

27 (5) The President of the Arkansas Science and Technology
28 Authority or his or her designee;

29 (6) The Director of the Department of Workforce Services or his
30 or her designee;

31 (7) A president or chancellor of an Arkansas four-year
32 institution of higher education or his or her designee, appointed annually by
33 the Director of the Department of Higher Education;

34 (8) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of
35 Educational Administrators or his or her designee;

36 (9) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Two-

1 Year Colleges or his or her designee;

2 (10) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Education
3 Association or his or her designee;

4 (11) The Executive Director of the Arkansas School Boards
5 Association or his or her designee; and

6 (12) The President of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and
7 the Associated Industries of Arkansas or his or her designee.

8 (c)(1) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee shall call
9 the first meeting of the council and serve as chair for the first meeting.

10 (2) The first meeting shall occur within thirty (30) days of the
11 effective date of this subchapter.

12 (d) At the first meeting of the council and annually thereafter, the
13 voting members of the council shall elect one (1) member to serve as chair
14 for one (1) year.

15 (e)(1) All members are voting members except the chair, who may vote
16 only to break a tie vote.

17 (2) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the
18 transaction of business.

19 (f) The council shall meet at least three (3) times in a calendar
20 year.

21 (g) The Department of Education, Department of Higher Education, and
22 Department of Career Education shall, alternating each year, provide meeting
23 space and staff for the council.

24 (h) Council members shall serve without pay and shall not receive
25 expense reimbursement except from the agency or institution employing the
26 member.

27
28 6-5-1103. Powers and duties.

29 (a) The Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness shall:

30 (1) Develop a unified strategy to:

31 (A) Reduce remediation rates among high school graduates
32 entering postsecondary education by at least fifty percent (50%) by the year
33 2020; and

34 (B) Increase postsecondary graduation and completion
35 rates;

36 (2)(A) Support college and career readiness standards that:

1 (i) Require higher performance levels than those
2 currently required for high school graduation; and

3 (ii) Promote accelerated learning opportunities,
4 including without limitation Advanced Placement courses, concurrent credit
5 opportunities, and other accelerated opportunities with college or
6 vocational-technical school assistance to ensure that all students have the
7 skills to be successful in either employment or postsecondary education.

8 (B) College and career readiness standards shall be
9 implemented with the understanding that until July 1, 2022, interim high
10 school graduation standards may be used until the high school graduation
11 standards adopted by the State Board of Education are equal to the college
12 and career readiness standards;

13 (3) Develop a successful transition-to-work matrix that schools
14 and students may use to help students develop employment skills;

15 (4) Develop guidelines for secondary school intervention
16 programs and transitional courses;

17 (5) Develop guidelines for professional development for teachers
18 of transitional courses and opportunities for collaboration among high
19 school, vocational-technical school, and college faculty to ensure that
20 transitional courses target gaps in students' college and career readiness
21 skills; and

22 (6) Provide the reports required under this subchapter.

23 (b)(1) The council shall establish working groups of its members, or
24 staff of the agencies or institutions employing the members, to direct the
25 planning process and strategic implementation of its plans.

26 (2) The working groups shall:

27 (A) Develop goals and action plans;

28 (B) Identify resources; and

29 (C) Determine expected outcomes to measure for each
30 strategy promoting college and career readiness and postsecondary completion.

31
32 6-5-1104. Reporting requirements.

33 (a) By June 30, 2014, the Council on Postsecondary Education and
34 Career Readiness shall:

35 (1) Develop a written plan to reduce remediation rates and
36 increase postsecondary graduation rates, including without limitation:

- 1 (A) Annual goals;
2 (B) Action strategies;
3 (C) Assigned responsibilities for implementing strategies;
4 (D) Timelines; and
5 (E) Reporting mechanisms;

6 (2) Provide the written plan to:

7 (A) The House Committee on Education and the Senate
8 Committee on Education;

9 (B) The board of directors of each school district and
10 open-enrollment charter school in this state; and

11 (C) The governing board of each state-supported
12 institution of higher education in this state; and

13 (3) Encourage each school district board of directors and the
14 governing board of each state-supported institution of higher education in
15 the state to participate in the council's plan and to work collaboratively to
16 reduce the remediation rates and further postsecondary graduation and
17 completion rates.

18 (b) By June 30, 2015, and annually thereafter, the council shall
19 report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on
20 Education:

21 (1) The progress of the council's work for the year; and

22 (2) Its recommendations, which may include without limitation
23 proposals for legislative action.

24
25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 20, is
26 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 6-15-2012. College and career readiness assessments - Secondary
28 intervention programs - Transitional courses.

29 (a) Before a student's graduation from high school, a high school
30 shall assess the student's college readiness based on the statewide college
31 and career readiness standards determined and implemented by the State Board
32 of Education.

33 (b) A high school shall provide for each student who does not meet the
34 college and career standards under the assessment:

35 (1) One (1) or more transitional courses designed to help the
36 student reach college and career readiness standards; and

